

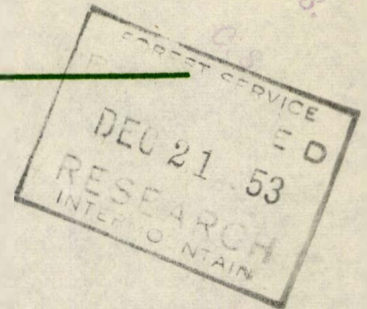
CENTRAL STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION



INTERMOUNTAIN STATION
Central Reference File

FOREST UTILIZATION SERVICE

No. 0.73



PROGRESS REPORT - THIRD QUARTER 1953 (July August, September)

General --Industry requests for on-the-ground assistance on production and utilization problems were unusually heavy during the quarter. Fortunately many of these calls could be worked into previously scheduled trips at considerable saving in time and travel funds. Included among these contacts were visits to the Monsanto Chemical Company in St. Louis on primary forest utilization problems; D. B. Frampton Lumber Company in Columbus on log grades; General Electric Company, St. Louis, on radio-telephone communications; Muskingum Conservancy District on logging and sawmilling problems, and the W. E. Morgan Lumber Company, Columbus, on possible plant sites for expansion of his pallet enterprise.

Mr. Walter Clugston of Cambridge City, Indiana, conferred with Day and Morgan, of the Division of Forest Economics, on his activities in promoting expansion in the pulp and paper field in the Central States. Mr. Clugston, a consulting engineer, is very enthusiastic over the possibilities in this field but has had some difficulty in selling his proposition to either the paper industry or the municipalities he has approached. We plan to keep in close touch with this activity as it does hold considerable promise if properly developed. FUS and Forest Economics at this Station will continue to work with him in providing survey and other available data. He is planning on a meeting in Indianapolis in December to launch his proposal before representatives of several states. Day plans to attend if this materializes.

During the quarter Day received and returned to the Laboratory for processing, the final draft of his report on the pallet industry. This report should be very useful in replying to the considerable volume of inquiries FUS receives on the possibilities of pallet manufacture by small rural sawmills and woodworking establishments.

Day attended a forestry field day sponsored by the Ohio Forestry Association, Industry Committee, and directed by the Association's Forester R. R. Paton. The meeting was well organized and well attended. Major theme of the demonstration was good cutting practices and closer utilization.

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Early in August the Station was visited by Peter Moltesen, Professor of Forestry at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College, Birkerød, Denmark, who is in this country on a 3-month Fulbright scholarship. Day accompanied Prof. Moltesen on a visit to the Bauer Brothers plant in Springfield and made arrangements for him to visit the Baker Wood Preserving Plant, McArthur, Ohio, and the Stone Container Corporation at Coshocton, Ohio. His principal interests were in the chemical utilization of hardwoods for pulp, paper, and roofing and in debarking and chipping equipment.

Dick Lane, Project Forester-in-Charge of the Carbondale Research Center, attended Walt Smith's meeting of the Hickory Task Force in Asheville, North Carolina. Lane is particularly interested in this project since hickory utilization presents one of the most important problems in the management of the hardwood stands in the southern half of the Central States Region and research on this species will be one of the first major species at the Carbondale Wood Utilization Pilot Plant which is also under his immediate direction.

Muskingum Conservancy District.--Following Day and Fobes trip to New Philadelphia last quarter, Garritt, the Forester for the Association, has put several of their recommendations into effect, especially those on wage structure and incentive payments. Likewise, he has instructed his sawyers in the advantages of cutting logs for grade rather than for mill orders. We understand the Board of Directors have given approval for the purchase of a new Ireland Sawmill. This should improve production, both volume and quality wise.

Logging Show.--Plans for the Missouri forestry, logging, and sawmilling show at Maramec Springs near Rolla indicate this may prove to be the largest and most successful of these regional demonstrations. More than 50 commercial exhibitors are definitely lined up for this event. The educational demonstrations and exhibits will be the most extensive and best organized of any of the four preceding shows. A farm forester will accompany the Emcee at all times to explain the silvicultural management or utilization significance of every exhibit or demonstration. The Forest Products Laboratory will probably have two exhibits at the show. The first public demonstration of the double diffusion fence post treatment should prove to be one of the best of the educational exhibits. We are also trying to arrange for a demonstration of the Laboratory crop drier kiln, similar to the one given at the Carpenter, Ohio, show last year. Other noncommercial exhibits are planned by: the Associated Cooperage Industries on stave bolt grades and specifications; the University of Missouri on air seasoning; the Missouri Forest Service on fire control, and our Northern Ozark Research Center on forest research methods and tools.

Increasingly these demonstrations are proving a focal point for the informal exchange of forestry, logging, and sawmilling problems between the equipment manufacturers, the primary forest products industries, farmers and other small woodland owners, and industrial and public foresters. It is expected that the show will attract between three and five thousand visitors.

Amana Society Sawmill.--We have previously reported the establishment of an Experimental Forest at Amana near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in cooperation with the Amana Society. The timber holdings of this society are among the largest and best managed in the State. Day and Fobes spent one day with Garth Champagne, our Iowa Research Center Leader, John Krajicek, Experimental Forest Superintendent, and Harry Geiger, Farm Manager for the Amana Society. Geiger is anxious to improve the operation and product of the Society's sawmill and logging operations. Arrangements were made to have Telford visit the mill early in October.

Hybrid Aspen.--The Forestry Department of Iowa State College and our Ames Research Center have located in southeastern Iowa what appear to be two groups of rather distinctive hybrids of Populus grandidentata or P. alba. Both have characteristics which appear favorable and desirable for growth in Iowa. Both are on upland sites in Van Buren County about 10 miles apart. They are about 25-30 years old and appear to be disease resistant, recover readily from ice damage, and propagate easily by root suckers or from cuttings.

The group on the Shimek State Forest is the denser of the two. Trees are straight, clean-boled, 75-100 feet high. One 1/5-acre plot contained a volume of 32 cords per acre at 28 years. Bark is unusually thin and peels easily.

During Day's and Fobes' visit to the Amana Society, Garth Champagne mentioned these stands and inquired as to FPL assistance in studying their possibilities for pulp, veneer, and other uses. Fobes stated he thought Herb Fleischer would be especially interested in trying these out on his new veneer slicer.

Wood Waste Conference.--A small meeting was held in Washington August 4 to evaluate and interpret past research and consider the possibilities for further work by the Agricultural Experiment Stations and other agencies on the agricultural uses of sawdust, chips, and shavings as soil amendments and mulches. The meeting was called by Dr. Carlton Barnes, Research Coordinator of the Department; as a result of a discussion at the Forest Products Laboratory during the April program conference. The meeting was attended by representatives from most of the FUS units east of the Rockies, Claude Bell of the FPL, Ray Wirka of the Division of Forest Products in Washington, A. C. McIntyre of the SCS, Dr. Barnes, Drs. Stallings and Allison of the BPISAE, and Dr. Garman of the Office of Experiment Stations.

Consensus of the meeting was that while considerable research had been accomplished, most of it had been fragmentary and almost entirely uncorrelated, leaving the problem of evaluating and interpreting results very difficult and the results largely inconclusive, conflicting in some respects and generally unsatisfactory.

After considerable discussion Dr. Garman proposed that the needed research to develop usable and acceptable data be brought before the regional meetings of the standing committees on soil research of the

Agricultural Experiment Stations. Dr. Garman will attempt to have FUS representatives present this problem and background material at these regional meetings next winter and spring.

Kaskaskia Tractor Study.--Field work on the D-4 and D-6 tractor skidding tests were completed in August. This study being carried on in cooperation with Caterpillar and Hyster and has been reported on earlier should be completed this fall. The remaining tests will be made with the Station's D-2 and small Hyster sulky. All of the tests so far have been on uphill grades due to the terrain at the Kaskaskia Experimental Forest. However at Caterpillar's request a number of down-grade tests will also be made. We hope to complete certain phases of the tests prior to the departure of Fobes of the Forest Products Laboratory on a 2-year assignment to Liberia. Fobes and the FPL have been particularly interested in the power requirements phases of this study since basic information in this field has not previously been gathered in this country.

Log Grades.--At a meeting of the Industry Committee of the Ohio Forestry Association held last June, a subcommittee was appointed to look into the desirability of recommending the adoption by the Association of standard log grades. Since that meeting FUS has had several requests for information on FPL system of log grading from the members of this subcommittee. Mr. Carey Paul, President of the Capitol Lumber Company and Chairman of this group, hopes to arrange for a practical demonstration of the system in the near future. They want to also include a demonstration of the Purdue system which has gained considerable support from industry in Indiana because of its simplicity. Some representatives of industry feel that acceptance of the Purdue system by industry might be a step in the right direction even though the FPL grades are recognized as being more precise. Others maintain that the immediate needs of industry warrant acceptance of rules which will be applicable throughout the entire hardwood region and consequently lean toward the FPL system.